

PROCEEDINGS
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A NEW RACE OF THE MANGROVE CUCKOO, FROM
GRENADA AND THE GRENADINES.

BY OUTRAM BANGS.

In his paper, Birds of the Southern Lesser Antilles,* Austin H. Clark referred the mangrove cuckoo of Grenada and the Grenadines to the continental *Coccyzus minor minor*. This was done, however, without a specimen from the mainland for comparison. Upon recently comparing the Grenadine bird with three skins in my collection from Costa Rica, I find that it can not be referred to true *C. minor minor* if the Costa Rican specimens represent that form (as I think they do), and as it certainly can not go with either *C. minor vincentis* Clark, of St. Vincent and St. Lucia, or *C. minor dominicæ* Shelly, of Dominica, I propose to call it,

Coccyzus minor grenadensis subsp. nov.

Type.—From Union Island (one of the Grenadines) southern Lesser Antilles, adult ♂, No. 12,978, coll. of E. A. & O. Bangs. Collected April 9, 1904, by Austin H. Clark.

Characters.—Size large and bill long and heavy as compared with *C. minor minor* of the mainland, *C. minor maynardi* of Florida and the Bahamas, or *C. minor nesiotæ* of the Greater Antilles and northern Lesser Antilles; slightly smaller, with somewhat smaller bill than either of the other two forms of the southern Lesser Antilles, *C. minor dominicæ* of Dominica and *C. minor vincentis* of St. Vincent and St. Lucia.

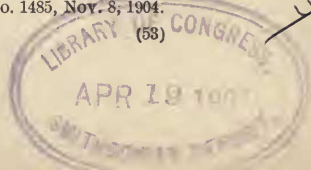
Colors very pale, throat and breast usually dull white, with sides of neck grayish; belly and sides buff. Much paler than either *dominicæ* or *vincentis* and in color not unlike *maynardi*.

Geographic distribution.—Grenada and the Grenadines, southern Lesser Antilles.

MEASUREMENTS.

No.	Sex.	Locality.	Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.	Culmen.
12978	♂	Union Island.	134	173	28	31
12976	♀	do	136	167	28	29

* Proc. Boston Soc. of Nat. Hist., Vol. 32, No. 7, pp. 263-266, Oct., 1905; see also in this connection, J. N. Riley, Smiths. Misc. Coll., Vol. 47, part 2, No. 1485, Nov. 8, 1904.



(For table of comparative measurements of *vincentis*, *dominicæ* and *grenadensis* called there *minor*, see Clark, Proc. Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist., Vol. 32, p. 266, 1905.)

Remarks.—As in this connection I carefully compared a large amount of material, I feel that a few general remarks on the mangrove cuckoo are necessary in order to make my point clear. *Coccyzus abbotti* Stone, of St. Andrews, Id., is the only form I have not seen. It appears from the description, however, to be well marked. The other races of *C. minor* fall naturally into two groups:—

1. Including *C. minor minor*, *C. m. maynardi* and *C. m. nesiotes*, characterized by small size, and short, slender bill.

These three forms are closely related, still there seem to be slight differences by which specimens in the same condition of plumage can usually if not always be told apart. In all three races, the buff or ochraceous colors of the under parts fade out from exposure to light as the plumage becomes worn. Thus, freshly moulted examples are much more intensely colored below than skins in which the plumage has evidently been worn for some time. Three skins of true *C. minor* from Costa Rica, taken at different seasons of the year, are very different one from the other in the color of the under parts, and examples of *C. minor nesiotes* from Jamaica show the same seasonal differences, so that general paleness or intensity of coloring are not necessarily characters by which the different races can be told. Curiously enough, among the large number of skins of *C. m. maynardi* examined there are none in freshly moulted plumage.

The real characters of these three races are, briefly, as follows: *C. minor minor* lacks almost entirely the grayish shading of the sides of the neck found in both *C. minor nesiotes* and *C. minor maynardi* and by this character can at once (in every skin I have examined) be distinguished. *C. minor nesiotes* and *C. minor maynardi*, both having gray on the sides of the neck, differ from each other in the former (*nesiotes*) being nearly uniformly colored below, the throat and breast but little paler than the belly and sides, whereas the latter (*maynardi*) has the throat and breast dull grayish-white or whitish, in contrast to the buff or ochraceous of the rest of the under parts.

2. Including *C. minor dominicæ*, *C. m. vincentis* and *C. m. grenadensis* distinguished by slightly larger size and much longer and stouter bill. These three races differ among themselves slightly in size, size of bill, and in color. *C. m. dominicæ* is the largest, while its bill is intermediate in size between those of the other two races; the under parts are deep tawny-ochraceous in color, darker and richer than in either of the other two (of course comparing specimens in the same condition of plumage). *C. minor vincentis* is a little smaller, but has the largest bill of the three forms, the colors of its under parts are paler than in *dominicæ* and not so reddish, but much darker than in *grenadensis*. *C. m. grenadensis* is the smallest, with the smallest bill, and has the under parts distinctly paler than in either of the others, with the throat and breast dull grayish-white or whitish.